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FORM PTO-1390 (REV 11-98)		U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE	ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER 40098
TRANSMITTAL LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US) CONCERNING A FILING UNDER 35 U.S.C. 371			U.S. APPLICATION NO. (If known, see 37 CFR 1.5) 09/601280
INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO. PCT/EP98/06930	INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE 2 November 1998	PRIORITY DATE CLAIMED 22 September 1998	
TITLE OF INVENTION Floor Carpet Installing System			
APPLICANT(S) FOR DO/EO/US Axel Schulte			
Applicant herewith submits to the United States Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) the following items and other information:			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This is a FIRST submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371. 2. <input type="checkbox"/> This is a SECOND or SUBSEQUENT submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371. 3. <input type="checkbox"/> This express request to begin national examination procedures (35 U.S.C. 371(f)) at any time rather than delay examination until the expiration of the applicable time limit set in 35 U.S.C. 371(b) and PCT Articles 22 and 39(1). 4. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A proper Demand for International Preliminary Examination was made by the 19th month from the earliest claimed priority date. 5. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A copy of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> is transmitted herewith (required only if not transmitted by the International Bureau). b. <input type="checkbox"/> has been transmitted by the International Bureau. c. <input type="checkbox"/> is not required, as the application was filed in the United States Receiving Office (RO/US). 6. <input type="checkbox"/> A translation of the International Application into English (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)). 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amendments to the claims of the International Application under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. <input type="checkbox"/> are transmitted herewith (required only if not transmitted by the International Bureau). b. <input type="checkbox"/> have been transmitted by the International Bureau. c. <input type="checkbox"/> have not been made; however, the time limit for making such amendments has NOT expired. d. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> have not been made and will not be made. 8. <input type="checkbox"/> A translation of the amendments to the claims under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)). 9. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> An oath or declaration of the inventor(s) (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(4)). 10. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A translation of the annexes to the International Preliminary Examination Report under PCT Article 36 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(5)). 			
Items 11. to 16. below concern document(s) or information included:			
11. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> An Information Disclosure Statement under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98.			
12. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> An assignment document for recording. A separate cover sheet in compliance with 37 CFR 3.28 and 3.31 is included.			
13. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A FIRST preliminary amendment. <input type="checkbox"/> A SECOND or SUBSEQUENT preliminary amendment.			
14. <input type="checkbox"/> A substitute specification.			
15. <input type="checkbox"/> A change of power of attorney and/or address letter.			
16. <input type="checkbox"/> Other items or information:			

U.S. APPLICATION NO. 09/601280		INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO. PCT98/06930		ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER 40098	
17. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The following fees are submitted: BASIC NATIONAL FEE (37 CFR 1.492 (a) (1) - (5)) : Neither international preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) nor international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO and International Search Report not prepared by the EPO or JPO \$970.00 International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) not paid to USPTO but International Search Report prepared by the EPO or JPO \$840.00 International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) not paid to USPTO but international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO \$760.00 International preliminary examination fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.482) but all claims did not satisfy provisions of PCT Article 33(1)-(4) \$670.00 International preliminary examination fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.482) and all claims satisfied provisions of PCT Article 33(1)-(4) \$96.00 ENTER APPROPRIATE BASIC FEE AMOUNT =				CALCULATIONS PTO USE ONLY	
Surcharge of \$130.00 for furnishing the oath or declaration later than <input type="checkbox"/> 20 <input type="checkbox"/> 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(e)).				\$ 0	
CLAIMS	NUMBER FILED	NUMBER EXTRA	RATE		
Total claims	9 - 20 =	0	X \$18.00	\$ 0	
Independent claims	1 - 3 =	0	X \$78.00	\$ 0	
MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM(S) (if applicable)			+ \$260.00	\$	
TOTAL OF ABOVE CALCULATIONS =				\$	
Reduction of 1/2 for filing by small entity, if applicable. A Small Entity Statement must also be filed (Note 37 CFR 1.9, 1.27, 1.28).				\$ 840.00	
SUBTOTAL =				\$ 840.00	
Processing fee of \$130.00 for furnishing the English translation later than <input type="checkbox"/> 20 <input type="checkbox"/> 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(f)).				\$ 0	
TOTAL NATIONAL FEE =				\$ 840.00	
Fee for recording the enclosed assignment (37 CFR 1.21(h)). The assignment must be accompanied by an appropriate cover sheet (37 CFR 3.28, 3.31). \$40.00 per property				\$ 40.00	
TOTAL FEES ENCLOSED =				\$ 880.00	
				Amount to be:	\$
				refunded	\$
				charged	\$
a. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A check in the amount of \$ <u>880.00</u> to cover the above fees is enclosed.					
b. <input type="checkbox"/> Please charge my Deposit Account No. _____ in the amount of \$ _____ to cover the above fees. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.					
c. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. <u>18-2220</u> . A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.					
NOTE: Where an appropriate time limit under 37 CFR 1.494 or 1.495 has not been met, a petition to revive (37 CFR 1.137(a) or (b)) must be filed and granted to restore the application to pending status.					
SEND ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO Mark S. Bicks Roylance, Abrams, Berdo & Goodman, L.L.P. 1300 19th Street Suite 600 Washington, D.C. 20036			 SIGNATURE Mark S. Bicks NAME 28,770 REGISTRATION NUMBER		

09/601280

534 Rec'd PCT/PTC 31 JUL2000

34969

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of : PATENT
Axel Schulte :
Serial No.: :
Filed: Herewith :
For: FLOOR CARPET INSTALLING SYSTEM :

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Preliminary to examination and calculation of the filing fee, please amend the above-identified application, as amended by Preliminary Examination, as:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 6, line 1 change "one of the Claims to 1 to 5" to --Claim 1--.

Claim 7, line 1 change "one of the Claims to 1 to 5" to --Claim 1--.

Claim 8, line 1 change "one of the Claims to 1 to 5" to --Claim 1--.

Claim 9, line 1 change "one of the Claims to 6 to 8" to --Claim 6--.

REMARKS

The above changes eliminate multiple dependency in the claims.

Respectfully Submitted,



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Dated: July 31, 2000, 2000

Floor Carpet Installation System

The invention relates to a floor carpet installation system comprising a carpet forming the usable surface with its front side and an anchoring means that can be fixed to the floor, the anchoring means having upwardly protuberant interlocking elements which come into interlocking engagement with the backside of the carpet opposite the nap side.

A floor carpet installation system of this type is already known from EP 0 321 978 B1. With the known system the backside of the carpet incorporates loop elements protruding out over the make-up of the material, with which come into engagement hooks found on the anchoring means which can be fastened to the floor.

This type of anchoring of the carpet to the floor incorporates inadequacies. As has been shown, the cooperation of the hooks and the free loops found on the carpet backside prevent a lifting of the carpet, but this type of anchoring still does not provide sufficiently secure connection for the prevention of sliding along the carpet plane. Thus during use it can lead to formation of buckling and displacements, and especially with higher stresses, for example with sliding of heavy pieces of furniture, there exists the danger of great damage.

The object of the invention is to disclose a floor carpet installation system which guarantees a comparatively improved anchoring between carpet and floor.

With a floor carpet installation system of the aforementioned type this object according to the invention is attained in that the backside of the carpet turned toward the anchoring means is formed by a loopless material and that a micro-adhesive closing with anchoring elements in the

form of fingers with thicknesses at their ends is provided as anchoring means, wherein the thicknesses at the ends of the fingers interlock with the loopless backside of the carpet.

The cooperation of a micro-adhesive closing having anchoring elements in the form of fingers with thicknesses at their ends with a loopless carpet backside leads to an especially rigid connection when considered in terms of the relative movements along the carpet plane, but also, with overcoming of the holding force, facilitates a lifting of the carpet without tearing of the anchoring means or of their interlocking elements, which under certain conditions represents an additional advantage, for example because following the execution of an intended lifting, a re-anchoring is possible without further procedures. In view of the fact that longitudinal sliding is definitely prevented, no danger exists of bulges or displacements occurring, even with stronger stresses.

A micro-adhesive closing which is particularly suitable for the system according to the invention is known from DE 196 46 318 A1. According to the make-up of the material of the carpet to be installed, in other words according to the structure of the backside, a micro-adhesive closing with a thickness of the carrier of the interlocking elements of 0.1 to 0.5 mm and with 20 to 600 interlocking elements per cm² can be used.

The thicknesses of the fingers of the interlocking elements can have the shape of mushroom heads or plate-shaped heads, whereby the heads are preferably provided on their tops with concave depressions. A method for particularly simple manufacture of micro-adhesive closings with such interlocking elements is suggested in German patent application 198 28 856.5.

With use of interlocking elements having depressions on the tops of their heads, the depressions on the heads can be provided with an adhesive allowing for an additional connection with the

backside of the carpet, for example by scraping the adhesive on the heads.

Textile materials in the form of felts or fleeces, or else loose breaker fabric or smooth stitches, as well as non-woven textiles, can be provided as backside of the carpet.

Hereinafter the invention is to be described in greater detail relative to the drawing. Therein can be found :

- Fig. 1 a diagrammatically simplified and broken open cross section of a floor carpet with open nap and loopless backside;
- Fig. 2 a perspective, greatly enlarged view of a microplast-adhesive closing part, whereby one individual interlocking element is represented still larger and in cross section;
- Fig. 3 a view corresponding to that of Fig. 2, whereby depressions on the tops of the heads of the interlocking elements are provided with adhesive, and
- Fig. 4 a broken open plan view in almost natural size of the loopless backside of the carpet of Fig. 1.

Fig. 1 shows in enlarged, diagrammatic simplified representation a cross section through a floor carpet with nap elements 1 of the traditional type, which extend upward from a connection layer 3 and which form the nap side of the carpet, serving as the usable surface. The backside 5 opposite the nap side is formed of a loopless material. For this purpose materials can be considered which lend the carpet structure a certain rigidity, directional alignment stability and tear resistance. In this case felt or fleece can be used, which obtain their mechanical composition by the tufting method and are glued with the connection layer 3 of the carpet. Loose breaker fabric or smooth right/left stitches and other so-called non-woven materials are also suitable for this purpose.

Fig. 2 shows a section of a strip of a microplast-adhesive closing 7 as it is disclosed in DE 196 46 318 A1. The thermoplastic (for example polyolefines or blends of polyamides come into consideration) strip formed in the gap between a pressure tool and a shaping tool forms a foil-like carrier 9 with fingers 11 protruding from its top. According to the mechanical construction and quality of the structure of backside 5 of the relevant carpet, the arrangement of fingers 11 has a packing density of approximately 20 to 600 fingers 11 per cm², with a thickness of carrier 9 of approximately 0.1 to 0.5 mm. Other packing densities and/or thicknesses of carrier 9 can of course be considered according to the special circumstances.

As can be recognized particularly from the sectional representation shown greatly enlarged in Fig. 2, the thickened heads 13 of fingers 11 are formed into mushroom- or plate-shapes with concave arcuate tops, so that within the edge of each head 13 is found a depression 15.

With the example shown in Fig. 3 the depression 15 of head 13 is filled with an adhesive 17. This can be applied by spreading on or scraping on, in order to produce an additional connection following the interlocking engagement with backside 5 of the relevant carpet. Adhesives on acrylate base can be considered as adhesive material, for example 2-ethyl hexyl acrylate or butyl acrylate, preferably in different selected mixture ratios, in order to vary the plasticizing, plasticity and adhesive power as desired and as required.

With wall-to-wall installation of carpets, adhesive closings 7 can be provided in the form of long strips or bands. With installation of the carpet in tile-like or flagstone-like form, shorter, strip sections adapted in a suitable manner to the individual tile parts can be provided.

Patent Claims

1. Floor carpet installation system with a carpet having its nap side (1) forming the usable surface and an anchoring means (7) which can be fastened to the floor, which anchoring means has upwardly protruding interlocking elements (9), which come into interlocking engagement with the backside (5) of the carpet opposite the nap side (1), characterized in that the backside (5) of the carpet turned toward the anchoring means is formed by a loopless material and that a micro-adhesive closing (7) with interlocking elements in the form of fingers (11) with thicknesses (13) at their ends is provided as anchoring means, which interlock with the loopless backside (5) of the carpet.
2. Floor carpet installation system as in Claim 1, characterized in that the thicknesses of the fingers (11) of the interlocking elements have the shape of mushroom heads or plate-like heads (13).
3. Floor carpet installation system as in Claim 2, characterized in that the thicknesses forming heads (13) are provided with concave depressions (15) on their tops.
4. Floor carpet installation system as in Claim 3, characterized in that the depressions (15) of the heads (13) are provided with an adhesive (17) causing an additional connection with the backside of the carpet.
5. Floor carpet installation system as in Claim 4, characterized in that an adhesive (17) on acrylate base is provided.
6. Floor carpet installation system as in one of the Claims 1 to 5, characterized in that felt or fleece are provided as the loopless textile material of the backside (5) of the carpet.
7. Floor carpet installation system as in one of the Claims 1 to 5, characterized in that loose breaker fabric or smooth stitches are provided as loopless textile material of the backside (5) of the carpet.

8. Floor carpet installation system as in one of the Claims 1 to 5, characterized in that non-woven textiles such as synthetic materials, needle felt or needle nap are provided as loopless textile material of the backside (5) of the carpet.
9. Floor carpet installation system as in one of the Claims 1 to 8, characterized in that the backside of the micro-adhesive closing (7) opposite the interlocking means (11) can be connected with the floor by use of adhesive.

Declaration and Power of Attorney for Patent Application

Erklärung für Patentanmeldungen mit Vollmacht

German Language Declaration

Als nachstehend benannter Erfinder erkläre ich hiermit an Eides Statt:

daß mein Wohnsitz, meine Postanschrift und meine Staatsangehörigkeit den im nachstehenden nach meinem Namen aufgeführten Angaben entsprechen, daß ich nach bestem Wissen der ursprüngliche, erste und alleinige Erfinder (falls nachstehend nur ein Name angegeben ist) oder ein ursprünglicher, erster und Miterfinder (falls nachstehend mehrere Namen aufgeführt sind) des Gegenstandes bin, für den dieser Antrag gestellt wird und für den ein Patent für die Erfindung mit folgendem Titel beantragt wird:

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated next to my name.

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled

FLOOR CARPET INSTALLING SYSTEM

deren Beschreibung hier beigelegt ist, es sei denn (in diesem Falle Zutreffendes bitte ankreuzen), diese Erfindung

☐ wurde angemeldet am _____
unter der US-Anmeldenummer oder unter der
Internationalen Anmeldenummer im Rahmen des
Vertrags über die Zusammenarbeit auf dem Gebiet
des Patentwesens (PCT)
_____ und am
_____ abgeändert (falls
zutreffend).

the specification of which is attached hereto unless the following box is checked:

☒ was filed on 2 Nov. 1998
as United States Application Number or PCT
International Application Number
PCT/EP98/06930 and was amended on
_____ (if applicable).

Ich bestätige hiermit, daß ich den Inhalt der oben angegebenen Patentanmeldung, einschließlich der Ansprüche, die eventuell durch einen oben erwähnten Zusatzantrag abgeändert wurde, durchgesehen und verstanden habe.

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

Ich erkenne meine Pflicht zur Offenbarung jeglicher Informationen an, die zur Prüfung der Patentfähigkeit in Einklang mit Titel 37, Code of Federal Regulations, § 1.56 von Belang sind.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, § 1.56.

German Language Declaration

Ich beanspruche hiermit ausländische Prioritätsvorteile gemäß Title 35, US-Code, § 119 (a)-(d), bzw. § 365(b) aller unten aufgeführten Auslandsanmeldungen für Patente oder Erfinderurkunden, oder § 365(a) aller PCT internationalen Anmeldungen, welche wenigstens ein Land ausser den Vereinigten Staaten von Amerika benennen, und habe nachstehend durch ankreuzen sämtliche Auslandsanmeldungen für Patente bzw. Erfinderurkunden oder PCT internationale Anmeldungen angegeben, deren Anmeldetag dem der Anmeldung, für welche Priorität beansprucht wird, vorangeht.

Prior Foreign Applications
(Frühere ausländische Anmeldungen)

PCT/EP98/06020

WO

(Number)
(Nummer)

(Country)
(Land)

(Number)
(Nummer)

(Country)
(Land)

Ich beanspruche hiermit Prioritätsvorteile unter Title 35, US-Code, § 119(e) aller US-Hilfsanmeldungen wie unten aufgezählt.

(Application No.)
(Aktenzeichen)

(Filing Date)
(Anmeldetag)

(Application No.)
(Aktenzeichen)

(Filing Date)
(Anmeldetag)

Ich beanspruche hiermit die mirunter Title 35, US-Code, § 120 zustehenden Vorteile aller unten aufgeführten US-Patentanmeldungen bzw. § 365(c) aller PCT internationalen Anmeldungen, welche die Vereinigten Staaten von Amerika benennen, und erkenne, insofern der Gegenstand eines jeden früheren Anspruchs dieser Patentanmeldung nicht in einer US-Patentanmeldung, bzw. PCT internationalen Anmeldung in in einer gemäß dem ersten Absatz von Title 35, US-Code, § 112 vorgeschriebenen Art und Weise offenbart wurde, meine Pflicht zur Offenbarung jeglicher Informationen an, die zur Prüfung der Patentfähigkeit in Einklang mit Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, § 1.56 von Belang sind und die im Zeitraum zwischen dem Anmeldetag der früheren Patentanmeldung und dem nationalen oder im Rahmen des Vertrags über die Zusammenarbeit auf dem Gebiet des Patentwesens (PCT) gültigen internationalen Anmeldetags bekannt geworden sind.

(Application No.)
(Aktenzeichen)

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(Anmeldetag)

(Application No.)
(Aktenzeichen)

(Filing Date)
(Anmeldetag)

Ich erkläre hiermit, daß alle in der vorliegenden Erklärung von mir gemachten Angaben nach bestem Wissen und Gewissen der Wahrheit entsprechen, und ferner daß ich diese eidesstattliche Erklärung in Kenntnis dessen ablege, daß wissentlich und vorsätzlich falsche Angaben oder dergleichen gemäß § 1001, Title 18 des US-Code strafbar sind und mit Geldstrafe und/oder Gefängnis bestraft werden können und daß derartige wissentlich und vorsätzlich falsche Angaben die Rechtswirksamkeit der vorliegenden Patentanmeldung oder eines aufgrund deren erteilten Patentes gefährden können.

I hereby claim foreign priority under Title 35, United States Code, § 119(a)-(d) or § 365(b) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate, or § 365(a) of any PCT International application which designated at least one country other than the United States, listed below and have also identified below, by checking the box, any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate, or PCT International application having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed.

Priority Not Claimed
Priorität nicht beansprucht

22 September 1998

(Day/Month/Year Filed)
(Tag/Monat/Jahr der Anmeldung)



(Day/Month/Year Filed)
(Tag/Monat/Jahr der Anmeldung)



I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, § 119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below.

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, § 120 of any United States application(s), or § 365(c) of any PCT International application designating the United States, listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States or PCT International application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, § 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, § 1.56 which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT International filing date of this application.

(Status) (patented, pending, abandoned)
(Status) (patentiert, schwebend, aufgegeben)

(Status) (patented, pending, abandoned)
(Status) (patentiert, schwebend, aufgegeben)

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

German Language Declaration

VERTRETUNGSVOLMACHT: Als benannter Erfinder beauftrage ich hiermit den (die) nachstehend aufgeführten Patentanwalt (Patentanwälte) und/oder Vertreter mit der Verfolgung der vorliegenden Patentanmeldung sowie mit der Abwicklung aller damit verbundenen Angelegenheiten vor dem US-Patent- und Markenamt: (Name(n) und Registrationsnummer(n) auflisten)

David S. Abrams Reg. No. 22,576

Postanschrift:

Telefonische Auskünfte: (Name und Telefonnummer)

POWER OF ATTORNEY: As a named inventor, I hereby appoint the following attorney(s) and/or agent(s) to prosecute this application and transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith: (list name and registration number)

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Vor- und Zuname des einzigen oder ersten Erfinders	Full name of sole or first inventor <u>Axel Schulte</u> <u>1-D</u>
Unterschrift des Erfinders Datum	Inventor's signature <u>[Signature]</u> Date <u>JUNE 17/2000</u>
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Staatsangehörigkeit	Citizenship <u>German</u>
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Vor- und Zuname des zweiten Miterfinders (falls zutreffend)	Full name of second joint inventor, if any
Unterschrift des zweiten Erfinders Datum	Second Inventor's signature Date
Wohnsitz	Residence
Staatsangehörigkeit	Citizenship
Postanschrift	Post Office Address

(Im Falle dritter und weiterer Miterfinder sind die entsprechenden Informationen und Unterschriften hinzuzufügen.)

(Supply similar information and signature for third and subsequent joint inventors.)